

PATENT APPLICATION

Please add the following new claims:

65. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the carboxy-terminal truncation comprises a truncation of part or all of amino acids 180-401.

66. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the nucleic acid encodes at least amino acids 1-180 of osteoprotegerin.

67. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein the deletion comprises a removal of the amino terminal leader sequence.

68. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein the deletion comprises a removal of amino acids 1-21.

69. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein the nucleic acid encodes at least amino acids 22-180 of osteoprotegerin.

70. (new) A method of increasing bone density in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a nucleic acid which encodes osteoprotegerin, wherein the administration results in an increase in the level of osteoprotegerin and wherein the increase in the level of osteoprotegerin in the mammal results in increased bone density.

71. (new) The method of claim 70 wherein the mammal is a human.

72. (new) The method of Claims 60 or 61 wherein the nucleic acid encodes osteoprotegerin comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B (SEQ ID NO: 5).

73. (new) The method of Claims 60 or 61 wherein the nucleic acid encodes osteoprotegerin comprising a carboxy-terminal truncation of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B (SEQ ID NO: 5).

74. (new) The method of Claims 60 or 61 wherein the nucleic acid encodes osteoprotegerin comprising a deletion of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B, SEQ ID NO: 5 wherein the deletion comprises removal of amino acids from the carboxy-terminus or from the amino-terminus.

75. (new) The method of claim 63 wherein the carboxy-terminal truncation comprises a truncation of part or all of amino acids 180-401.

76. (new) The method of claim 63 wherein the nucleic acid encodes at least amino acids 1-180 of osteoprotegerin.

77. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein the deletion comprises a removal of the amino terminal leader sequence.

78. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein the deletion comprises a removal of amino acids 1-21.

79. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein the nucleic acid encodes at least amino acids 22-180 of osteoprotegerin.